

Governor Rendell's 'Smart Pharmacy' Proposal Expands Health Care Access

- "Smart Pharmacy" is a program that will help Pennsylvania make sure it can continue to provide **access to health care for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and vulnerable residents.**
- Smart Pharmacy will have **no impact on health care consumers** served by the commonwealth, but will generate significant savings for taxpayers.
- Under federal law the state can get better prices on pharmaceuticals than private HMOs can because the state qualifies for higher federal rebates. In fact, the **rebates the state can get are seven times greater** than the rebates available to private HMOs.
- Pennsylvania already gets this pharmacy savings for 800,000 Pennsylvanians on Medical Assistance. Smart Pharmacy will increase the amount of savings by expanding this program statewide.
- Smart Pharmacy means Pennsylvania will save an additional \$146 million each and every year once it is fully implemented. These resources will become more and more critical to ensuring that the senior citizens, persons with disabilities and vulnerable residents get health care in years to come.
- The concept is straightforward: any consumer can tell you that the smart way to shop is to go after the best prices. The same principle applies here — Pennsylvania should pay the lowest possible prices for prescription drugs for its children and families on Medicaid.
- Recognizing that pending federal assistance is only temporary, now is the time to take this opportunity to put in place the kind of changes that will permanently lower the cost of government — and that means implementing Smart Pharmacy.